

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

July 13, 2017

The Honorable Heather Wilson  
Secretary of the Air Force  
1670 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20330-1670

Dear Secretary Wilson:

We write in support of bringing the new F-35 Lightning II to Selfridge Air National Guard Base (ANGB) and the continued evolution of Selfridge ANGB capabilities. We were happy to learn that the Air Force site survey team recently toured Selfridge ANGB. We are hopeful that they learned what we already know well: Selfridge is the best home to the F35s to ensure American military readiness.

Selfridge ANGB is an example of a model modern base as it houses all five branches of the armed forces. It boasts 3,000 highly-trained, award-winning members of the Air and Army National Guard and Reserve components of the U.S. Armed Forces, as well as full-time civilian and military personnel.

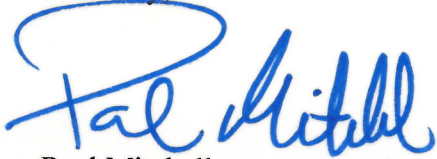
Selfridge supports ongoing, unique training capabilities and missions. Our state hosts the largest contiguous joint service range/airspace complex in the eastern United States, providing tremendous opportunities for development of F-35 close air support tactics and joint training. Training events at Selfridge include Operation Northern Strike, the only accredited reserve component joint training in the United States. During this annual event, the Michigan National Guard trains over 5,000 members of the Army, Air Force, Marines, and Special Forces from across the country, and U.S. allies.

Along with the outstanding men and women who serve at Selfridge, there are structural and fiscal advantages to housing F-35s at Selfridge: the ANGB boasts large modern operations facilities, an exceptional training range, and a low cost-of-conversion with no-risk. Forces at the 127th Wing have had the benefit of operating an A-10 squadron and the KC-135 Stratotanker, making the F-35s a well-suited addition.

Stationing the F-35 fighter aircraft at Selfridge has strong support from federal, regional, state, and local leadership as it is in the best interest of the state, as well as the nation. Selfridge has been a staunch community partner as well as strategic epicenter for mission readiness at home and abroad. For 100 years, the communities surrounding Selfridge have supported the base as it brings highly paid jobs, service contracts, and families that work, shop and go to schools in our region. Continuing military missions at Selfridge, especially growth inside its military gates, can mean growth outside the gates.

For the reasons outlined above, it is our strong belief that the best path to military readiness runs through Michigan at Selfridge ANGB and urge the Air Force to select Selfridge as the home of the new F-35s.

Sincerely,



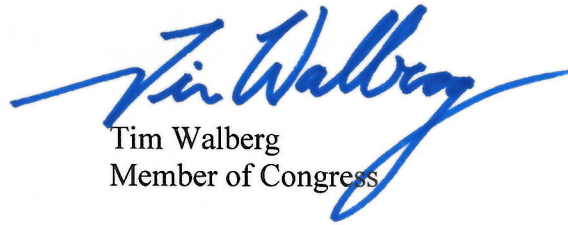
Paul Mitchell  
Member of Congress



Fred Upton  
Member of Congress

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Bill Huizenga  
Member of Congress

A cursive signature in blue ink, starting with a large 'T' and ending with a long, sweeping tail.

Tim Walberg  
Member of Congress

A cursive signature in blue ink, starting with a large 'M' and ending with a long, sweeping tail.

Mike Bishop  
Member of Congress

A cursive signature in blue ink, starting with a large 'J' and ending with a long, sweeping tail.

John Moolenaar  
Member of Congress

A cursive signature in blue ink, starting with a large 'D' and ending with a long, sweeping tail.

David Trott  
Member of Congress

A cursive signature in blue ink, starting with a large 'J' and ending with a long, sweeping tail.

Jack Bergman  
Member of Congress